

108TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

S. 1725

To amend the Mineral Leasing Act to authorize the Secretary of the Interior to issue separately, for the same area, a lease for tar sand and a lease for oil and gas, and for other purposes.

IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

OCTOBER 14, 2003

Mr. HATCH introduced the following bill; which was read twice and referred to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources

A BILL

To amend the Mineral Leasing Act to authorize the Secretary of the Interior to issue separately, for the same area, a lease for tar sand and a lease for oil and gas, and for other purposes.

1 *Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representa-*
2 *tives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,*

3 **SECTION 1. COMBINED HYDROCARBON LEASING.**

4 (a) SPECIAL PROVISIONS REGARDING LEASING.—
5 Section 17(b)(2) of the Mineral Leasing Act (30 U.S.C.
6 226(b)(2)) is amended—

7 (1) by inserting “(A)” after “(2)”; and

8 (2) by adding at the end the following:

1 “(B) The Secretary may issue under this
2 Act for the same area, separately—

3 “(i) a lease for exploration for and
4 extraction of tar sand; and

5 “(ii) a lease for exploration for and
6 development of oil and gas.

7 “(C) A lease issued under subparagraph
8 (B)(ii) shall not be further subject to the Com-
9 bined Hydrocarbon Leasing Act of 1981 (30
10 U.S.C. 181 et seq.).

11 “(D) A lease issued for tar sand shall be
12 issued using the same bidding process, annual
13 rental, and posting period as a lease issued for
14 oil and gas, except that the minimum accept-
15 able bid required for a lease issued for tar sand
16 shall be \$2 per acre.

17 “(E) The Secretary may waive, suspend, or
18 alter any requirement under section 26 that a
19 permittee under a permit authorizing
20 prospecting for tar sand must exercise due dili-
21 gence, to promote any resource covered by a
22 combined hydrocarbon lease.”.

23 (b) CONFORMING AMENDMENT.—Section
24 17(b)(1)(B) of the Mineral Leasing Act (30 U.S.C.
25 226(b)(1)(B)) is amended in the second sentence by in-

1 serting “, subject to paragraph (2)(B),” after “the Sec-
2 retary”.

3 (c) REGULATIONS.—Within 45 days after the date of
4 the enactment of this Act, the Secretary of the Interior
5 shall issue final regulations to implement this section.

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